

The Baptist Record

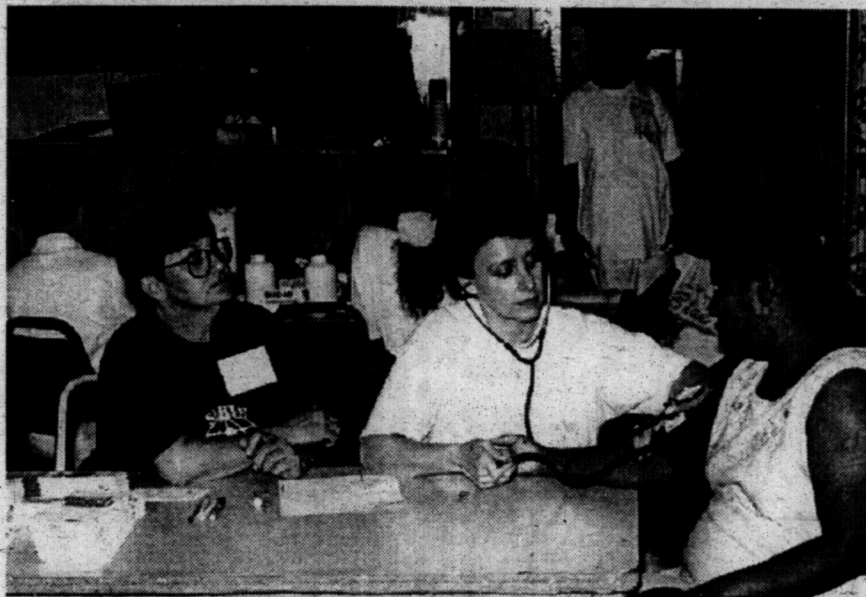
JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Nurses uncover needs during Health Awareness clinics

By Tim Nicholas



Brenda Smith (above photo, center), a Licensed Practical Nurse from Blue Mountain, and Bonnie Dunham of New Albany (left) take a blood pressure reading for a visitor to the July 20 Health Awareness Week clinic at Friars Point in Coahoma County. Jackson physician Max Pharr (below photo, right) and Registered Nurse Laverne Barnes of Jackson confer on procedures to be implemented during the clinics, which were conducted over four days in a number of locations around Coahoma County as a project of the Mississippi River Ministry. (Photos by Tim Nicholas and William H. Perkins Jr.)



At Friars Point near the Mississippi River in Coahoma County last week, the first person to visit the clinic was a man born in 1925 whose eyes were so bad, he said, he signed an X and had a volunteer witness it.

Asked if he was a Christian, he said, "Oh, yes," and named his pastor and the Sunday School he attends.

The second person through the door was a woman who said her boyfriend beat her up the previous weekend. She wanted medical care but was only slightly disappointed to discover that the clinic was just doing testing.

She was told that she did not have to stay with someone who hit her. She said she had kicked him out, but he had come back the night before and slapped her around. Asked if she had children, she said she had two.

One woman was found to have blood pressure of 251 over 155. Asked if she was taking her blood pressure medicine, she said it made her feel bad.

Max Pharr of Jackson, on-site physician, asked her to return quickly to her doctor for new medication. The woman was a high risk for stroke without some blood pressure control.

These were three of 222 people seen in a series of health awareness clinics held in North Delta Association, July 17-21.

Sponsored by the association and staffed by volunteers from the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF), the project gave eye tests, blood pressure checks, testing for hypertension, blood tests for diabetes, anemia, and cholesterol; and offered

breast exam education.

M.C. Johnson, director of missions for North Delta Association, said the project was designed to "make people aware of the health needs in the area and give an opportunity for a Christian witness."

Johnson said he led three people to the Lord at the July 19 clinic in the community of Coahoma.

Besides verbal witness from the volunteers, gospel tracts were given out along with medical education brochures.

"There might be a possibility of starting a work here at Friars Point," said Johnson. "Several... have expressed an interest in an ongoing Bible study."

The association has just completed a day camp there with 70 in attendance — the fifth year for such a program — and a recreation program is in its third year, begun with seed money from the Mississippi River Ministry.

Mississippi River Ministry is the name of a series of projects and ministries in counties all along the Mississippi River. The health clinics were considered part of the overall ministry.

Ashley McCaleb, consultant in Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and coordinator of the state's BNF, said Johnson contacted her last spring asking for nurses.

Two nurses from the Delta responded immediately, and then McCaleb telephoned Kaye Wilson, who teaches nursing at Mississippi College and is from Leland.

Wilson telephoned Jay Richardson, pastor of First Church, Greenville, with whom she grew up.

Richardson called back with three volunteers — home health

nurses, able to draw blood and replace lab technicians who could not participate.

Pharr, a retired doctor from Jackson, agreed to be the required on-site physician; Laverne Barnes of Jackson, retired registered nurse (she works one day a month at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center [MBMC] in Jackson to keep herself licensed), supervised setting up the clinics.

Barnes has participated in foreign mission medical trips to Russia, Brazil, and is setting out on her second trip to Honduras this week.

William B. Wilson, director of pathology at MBMC, agreed to do the blood lab work for the clinics. Results will be returned to Johnson for forwarding to local health departments for follow up.

Johnson arranged for facilities, and the clinics took place at Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale; the old school gym at Coahoma; the Masonic Hall at Friars Point; and the community house at Marks.

Several groups provided educational displays, including the Diabetes Association, the Heart Association, the Crisis Pregnancy Center operated by the North Delta Association, the Aaron Henry Health Center, and the State Department of Health.

McCaleb said the project was two firsts for the Baptist Nursing Fellowship: the first project with the Mississippi River Ministry, and the first time to do hands-on work in Mississippi.

Other BNF projects have been in Mexico and on the Rio Grande and in providing rolled bandages, children's vitamins, and eyeglasses to foreign missionaries.

Queen of Division Street

Ever since Bettye Baker read as a child about Queen Esther in the Bible, she dreamed about one day becoming a queen herself. She has gotten her wish — in a way she could not have envisioned as a young girl. Known as the "Queen of Division Street" in Arlington, Texas, for her Christian work with street people, Baker said, "I never thought I'd get to be a queen like this, but I wear the title proudly." Baker recalls her surprise when police sting operations netted a large number of prostitutes along Division Street in Arlington, a community in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. "I didn't realize it was real in Arlington. I had never seen it because I hadn't looked; I was too busy getting to church," said the pastor's wife. Baker moved to fill the need she saw, and now young women are being led off the street and to the Lord. With tears in her eyes, Baker explained, "God called me out of my comfortable pew in such an emphatic way that I know my place. I have never done anything in all of my life for the church or God that has given me such extreme joy and fulfillment."

Russian opening?

A prominent Russian lawmaker has reportedly called upon Baptists to help restore the country's spiritual foundation, according to Baptist Press. Vitaly Savitsky, chairman of the subcommittee on religious groups in the Russian parliament, is apparently standing in opposition to communists and nationalists who have backed the Russian Orthodox Church as the sole legitimate religion in the country. Christian evangelistic organizations have had a difficult time establishing a foothold in many parts of Russia because of hard-line opposition from the Russian Orthodox Church. Savitsky, in an article published in the *Moscow Tribune* newspaper, also criticized Orthodox Church supporters who have used sensational stories about religious cults, such as the Aum Shinri Kyo cult accused of subway gas attacks in Japan, to whip up xenophobic fears of outside religious groups. Savitsky's influential comments are welcome news to Southern Baptists, who have 53 missionaries working in Russia since the country opened its borders after the fall of communism in the early 1980s.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

A group of 29 volunteers from Harrisburg, Ingram, and Mt. Vernon Churches in the Tupelo area combine resources and work 12-hour days to completely erect Maple City Church in Goshen, Ind.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen and Singing Women announce plans to record an album of patriotic songs and anthems in honor of the upcoming 200th anniversary of the United States of America.

50 years ago

First Church, Bay St. Louis, holds revival services to commemorate the church's recent move from part-time to full-time basis. Plans have been drawn for a \$40,000 building, and construction is set to begin before the first of the year.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Rebuilding the bridges

The Baptists of our state have struggled over the controversy of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), and the fragmentation of a great organization.

There has been evidence of a "free state of Jones" attitude among us. Increasingly there has been pressure to align ourselves, take a stand, give up the mid-stream for the right or left. Mississippi has basically refused to be led to either camp, even though some maintained we had to be SBC or moderate.

This writer feels that most Mississippi Baptists are neither moderate nor fundamental/conservative. Extremism has not been the chosen path.

Nor can we delight ourselves in the Paige Patterson-Paul Pressler meeting at Cafe du Monde in New Orleans in 1977. This meeting, according to some historians, proposed the agenda that materialized into a successful takeover of the Convention and supposedly returned it to its conservative roots.

Mississippi Baptists had never departed from those roots, and felt little need to join in the return. During the 1988 SBC meeting, Jerry

Vines was elected (50.43%) over Richard Jackson (49.57%) as president of the convention. This, nor any of the other elections, served as a mandate to shut out all who were not fundamental/conservatives.

In 1992 a group met in Memphis to study ways to move state conventions into the fundamental/conservative camp. Most Mississippians disapproved of this meeting.

Later in our state there was an effort to divide the state into districts and "elect the right people" to state offices, committees, and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Again, such an effort was opposed and it never materialized.

Now the CBF, no longer content with being a splinter group of the SBC, is making aggressive efforts at growth, and we hear growling of a new denomination aborning. In the Magnolia State there will be CBF meetings in seven cities: Clinton, Jackson, Laurel, Meridian, Indianola, Tupelo, and Starkville.

Cecil Sherman, CBF coordinator and CEO, will lead these meetings. Sherman's march through Mississippi is purported to be for fellowship, inspiration, information, and challenge. A noble state-

ment, but its major purpose is to attract more Baptists to the CBF program.

Thus far CBF has exhibited little magnetism for most Baptists in our state. It has grown very slowly in the past four years even though there are some fine people in the organization.

I hope Mississippi pastors and people will feel the freedom to attend these meetings if they so desire. I also hope we will let it be known that, while we are not pleased with every action of the SBC, we are still Southern Baptists. The CBF's members are also still in the SBC, though Sherman has prophesied the Fellowship would be a separate denomination within 20 years.

The SBC leadership has shown some signs of reconciliation and of rebuilding broken bridges. Perhaps it is dawning upon some that many people are not in either camp.

Things can still change — but until they do, please hear us in Nashville or Atlanta: We are not moderates nor fundamental/conservatives. We are just Baptists who are conservative in theology and who are seeking to win Mississippi and the world to Christ.

The legacy continues...

Celebrate Language Missions Day

For generations, Southern Baptists have been committed to the thousands of newcomers to our land and to the thousands of second- and third- and many-generation ethnics who trace their ancestry well beyond our nation's birth. Southern Baptists' efforts have brought them the distinction of being the most diverse denomination in the United States.

Almost half of America's 260 million people identify themselves as ethnic/language-culture people. They speak 636 languages and dialects. This land that received the world's tired, poor, huddled masses who yearned to be free has become a mosaic of people. Southern Baptists provide a witness among 102 of America's 500 ethnic groups in their cultural settings. The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has become a voice among the nations, telling those new to this land about the love of God. Respecting language and cultural traditions, Southern Baptists are beginning ethnic churches. One of every six Southern Baptist churches or missions is a language congregation — more than

6,500 language-culture congregations/units, with approximately 500,000 members, are affiliated with Southern Baptist associations, state conventions, and the SBC.

In Mississippi, language ministries fall under the direction of Neron Smith, consultant in the Missions Extension & Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. James Booth works in that department as a consultant for deaf ministry.

Language missions in Mississippi include Chinese mission points in Cleveland, Greenwood, and Jackson. James Gilbert, retired foreign missionary, works in the Gulf Coast Association with Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, and Hispanic missions. Work with Native Americans is carried on in Carthage, Conehatta, Walnut Grove, and Philadelphia.

Hispanic mission points are also located in Sebastopol, Hattiesburg, Byhalia, and Forest. The Seamen's Ministry in Pascagoula, directed by W.R. Storie Jr., and the Seamen's Ministry in Gulfport, under the direction of Charles Corey, have an outreach

to sailors of many nationalities.

Although ethnic Baptist churches are growing faster than Anglo Southern Baptist churches and ethnic baptism rates are higher, thousands of ethnic/language-culture people have not yet heard the gospel. Less than 1% of the ethnic people in America are evangelical Christians.

In upcoming decades, an anticipated 80 million people — new residents and tourists — will flood the U.S. shores. These newcomers will offer immense opportunities for witness and ministry. As we approach the 21st century, Southern Baptists must enhance their witness to the nationalities of this land. We must strive to reach all the people of our nation for Christ.

The Home Mission Board has resources available to help your church start and build a language mission. To order support materials such as bulletin inserts, videos, planting guides, and mission facts, contact the Home Mission Board at 4200 North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta, GA 30202-4174; or call the board's customer services department at (800) 634-2462.



THE FRAGMENTS

The world in miniature

Imagine that we could compress the world's population of more than three and a quarter billion into one town of 1,000 persons in the exact proportions in which the world population is actually divided.

In such a town of 1,000 there would be only 60 Americans! And these 60 Americans would receive half the income of the entire town. Only about 330 of the remaining 940 townfolk would be classed as Christians. Half of the inhabitants of our one-town world would be ignorant of Jesus Christ.

The 60 Americans would have an average life expectancy of 70 years; the other 940, less than 40 years.

The 60 Americans would have 15 times as many possessions per person as all of their neighbors. The Americans would produce 16% of the town's food supply, and although they'd eat 72% above the maximum food requirements, they would either eat most of what they grow, or store it for their own further use, at enormous cost. (With most of the 940 non-Americans hungry, the food supply disparity might understandably lead to some ill feelings.)

There would be 53 telephones in this one-world town.... Americans would own 28 of them. The

Americans would enjoy a disproportionate share of electric power, coal, fuel, steel, and general equipment.

The lowest income group among the Americans would be better off by far than the average of the other townsmen. The 60 Americans and about 200 others representing Western Europe and a few classes in South America, South Africa, Australia, and Japan would be relatively well off, by comparison.

Out of his average income of \$3,000 per year, the gift of each American person for all purposes other than private and personal gifts would average less than \$60 per year. This might raise a question as to how seriously he regards the Christian faith or the meaning of Christmas with its special emphasis on peace and good will among men.

— Henry Smith Leiper, quoted in *Speakers Sourcebook II*, compiled by Eleanor Doan (Zondervan Publishing House, 1988).

Editor's Note: This is not my favorite article, but it is one to be considered in the running. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits," is more to my peace of mind. Still, we need to know these things and be grateful for our bounty. — GH

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World Changers youths don't let heat prevent hard work

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Summers in Mississippi get hot, but it wasn't hot enough to prevent missions-minded young people from leaving their evangelistic mark on disadvantaged areas of Vicksburg during the week of July 8-15.

A total of 235 World Changers, along with 35 leaders, worked on 25 projects in the Vicksburg area, mixing home repair and neighborhood witnessing with oppressive heat, said Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

The Mississippi Brotherhood Department hosted the young

people under the sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

"World Changers projects offer youth a tremendous opportunity to experience missions first-hand. Their spirit of Christian love is reflected in their actions as they seek to provide a witness to the families with whom they work and to the neighborhood around those families," Harrell said.

The Vicksburg World Changers had a \$50,000 materials budget provided by the City of Vicksburg's planning department, Harrell explained, while MBCB and Warren Association separately

sponsored one of the projects.

The young people worked each day from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., providing labor for roofing, painting, weatherizing, installation of siding, and a variety of minor repairs. They bunked at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg and took their meals in the school's cafeteria, he said.

A spiritual enrichment time was conducted each night at 7 p.m., and Harrell said Vicksburg residents who had World Changers in their homes during the day began to come to those services as rapport was established with the young people.

Each World Changer participant paid \$235 to help with expenses for lodging, food, and security incurred by the sponsoring Brotherhood Commission, but the returns cannot be measured in a monetary way, Harrell pointed out.

"The spiritual enrichment in the evenings and the mission experience during the day made life-changing impressions on these young people. They are committed

to changing the world — one house at a time," Harrell said.

World Changer projects scheduled for Mississippi during the summer of 1996 include Vicksburg on June 15-22, and Natchez on July 13-20.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Weather forces first-ever Youth Night cancellation

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Severe thunderstorms that dumped almost three-quarters of an inch of rain in the Jackson area July 28 forced the cancellation of Youth Night '95 for the first time in the long-running history of the popular annual event.

Thousands of young people huddled under the stands of Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson as the steady, hours-long downpour drowned any chance of energizing the high-voltage equipment needed to start the 7 p.m. program.

When high winds twice blew protective coverings off stage equipment and lightning began to strike from swirling, low-hanging clouds that encircled the stadium, organizers announced at 7:30 p.m. that Youth Night '95 was being cancelled.

"It was a life safety decision, considering the massive amounts of electricity in the stadium and the lightning that was hitting all around the area," said Matt Buckles, Youth Night '95 planning committee chairman and consultant in the church administration/pastoral ministries department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

MBCB sponsors the Youth Night event each year.

Jim Butch, preparedness meteorologist for the Jackson office of the National Weather Service, said the storms dropped .68 inches of rain at the airport in Jackson, with wind gusts of up to 38 miles per hour.

"The tropical storm moving through the Gulf of Mexico, combined with the heating that was

going on at the time, created a turbulent situation," Butch said.

That "turbulent situation" kept Youth Night organizers in a quandry right up until the event's start time.

"As late as 4 p.m., we had blue skies. At 5 p.m., the weather started to become a problem, but you can't pick up a crowd of 20,000 people and shift them elsewhere at the last minute," Buckles said.

Open-air events are always a weather risk, he pointed out, but the popularity of Youth Night has outgrown the largest indoor facilities in the state.

"Our greatest disappointment is for the young people who did not get to hear the outstanding program of Christian preaching and singing," he added.

Headlining the program were youth speaker Duffy Robbins of Eastern College in St. Davids, Penn.; Christian recording artist Kathy Troccoli of Nashville; and

Kindred Heart, a Jackson-based Christian singing group.

Buckles commended the volunteers and MBCB staffers who helped in the planning process for the better part of a year and assisted in the equipment set-up at the stadium on the day of the event.

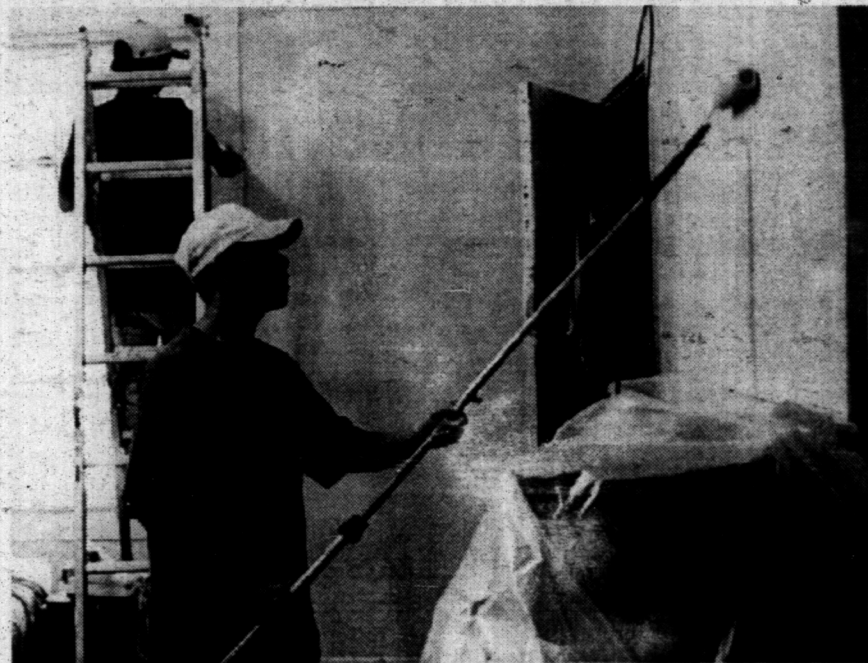
"I want to thank everyone who supported the Youth Night effort this year," he said.

Youth Night '96 is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 1996, at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

Buckles hopes the weather will be as cooperative in 1996 as it was for Youth Night '93 and '94, when the outdoor stadium was first used.

"The planning committee for Youth Night '96 will begin meeting in late August (1995). We are always open to suggestions on how we can improve," Buckles said.

Buckles can be contacted at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



World Changers from across the Southern Baptist Convention converged on Vicksburg July 8-15 to work on 25 projects in the city. Chris Frye (above photo, foreground), member of First Church, Woodbury, Tenn., puts a fresh coat of paint on a bedroom wall while Nathan Atkinson, member of First Church, Covington, Ga., paints the trim around the bedroom window. Donald Edmondson (below photo, right), member of First Church, West Memphis, Ark., works a hand saw under the exacting scrutiny of Vicksburg residents Jimmy Lyons (left) and brother Alan. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Details for '95 Mississippi Convention announced

The 1995 Mississippi Baptist Convention will begin on Tuesday morning, Oct. 31, at First Church, Jackson, with the president's address by Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula.

The convention closes the next afternoon with a message by Steve Bennett, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven.

Theme of the convention is "Compelled by His Love."

The two-day convention is the annual business meeting of messengers from the 2,000 participating Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi.

The meeting will include consideration of a Cooperative Program budget which for 1994 is \$22,606,579, and election of a president to succeed Yancey, who completes his second one-year term in November.

Traditionally, messengers also debate resolutions, and agencies of the convention are given time to make reports.

Other major speakers include David Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Church, Tyler, Texas; Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); and Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, who will

deliver the convention sermon on Wednesday morning.

Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, will give the Bible Treasure messages, a traditional series of devotionals during each of the day sessions of the convention.

Special music will be presented by the sanctuary choir of First Church, Pascagoula; One Voice, a music/drama group sponsored by the Church Music Department, MBCB; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; the sanctuary choir of First Church, McComb; and the William Carey College Chorale.



A family affair

Victor Roudkovski (right) of Lore, Kazakhstan, recently visited the Baptist Building in Jackson. With him were (from left) his son Peter, wife Tanya, and daughter Luka. Peter is a student at Blue Mountain College, as was his older brother "Jake." The elder Roudkovski is a church planter in his home country, which now has 11,000 Baptists and 140 Baptist churches. Jerald Welch, director of missions for Holmes, Humphreys, and Leflore counties, accompanied the family.

Board of Ministerial Education reports

Ernest C. Turcotte Jr., chairman of the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, stated in a July 21 report to the convention's Education Commission an increase in the number of students receiving financial aid in the spring of 1995. Blue Mountain College reported 51, Mississippi College, 77, and William Carey, 118, for a total of 246. This compares with the spring 1994 total of 223.

Turcotte also reported to the commission that the board has established an ongoing scholarship in honor of Ernest R. Pinson, long-time Bible professor at Mississippi College. The scholarship fund was contingent upon accumulating at least \$5,000 from gifts and other sources. Thus far only \$500 has been received.

Turcotte said that several churches and numerous individuals have indicated they would contribute to the scholarship fund, but the gifts have not been received. It is hoped that at least \$5,000 will be in hand by Sept. 1. The address of the Board of Ministerial Education is P.O. Box 1843, Madison, MS 39130-1843. — GH

Roseland Park hosts crusade

Roseland Park Church, Picayune, began a crusade for Christ on July 31, under the theme "Five Marvelous Mondays."

The crusade will continue each Monday night in August at 7 p.m.

Speakers for those services will be: Aug. 7, Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Aug. 13 and 14, Mike Speck and the Mike Speck Trio, evangelist team of Owasso,

Okla.; Aug. 21, Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon; and Aug. 27 and 28, Roc Collins, evangelist from Hattiesburg.

Frank Nix, Roseland Park's minister of music, will lead music for the services, along with the Celebration & Jubilation choirs and the Celebration orchestra.

For more information, call the church at (601) 798-5620. John Brock is pastor.

Henry pulls out of NOBTS candidacy

NASHVILLE (BP) — The apparent leading candidate for president of New Orleans Seminary — SBC President Jim Henry — has withdrawn his candidacy, Baptist Press has learned.

New Orleans Seminary is in a search for a new president to succeed Landrum P. Leavell II who has retired.

Henry, re-elected to his second one-year term as Southern Baptist Convention president at the annual meeting in Atlanta in June, had been identified as the leading candidate by sources close to the search committee.

"I am deeply grateful that the school I love so much considered me as a candidate for president," Henry told Baptist Press. "I believe at this time, it is best for me to withdraw my name and to continue to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead the committee to his man at this critical time in the seminary's life."

Henry, 57, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., declined to elaborate on his decision.

A presidential search committee, composed of 10 trustees from the seminary's board of trustees, has been conducting a search since late last year. The committee was

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship commissions 16 missionaries

FORT WORTH, (ABP) — The following 16 new missionaries were commissioned by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship during its 1995 general assembly in Fort Worth July 20-22.

— Ronnie Adams, minister with singles at First Church of Plano, Texas, will minister to disadvantaged and displaced persons in New York City.

— Warren and Karen Hatley of Quitman, Texas, are assigned to an unreached people group in the Middle East. He is a family physician in Quitman. Both are active in First Church. They have a son, Reed, 12.

— Bobby and Louise Hendley started their two-year term in April. They work with Open House Ministries in Miami, Fla., to provide long-term disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Andrew. They have a daughter, Madeline.

— Dwight and Brenda Jackson, former Southern Baptist missionaries

to Burundi and Tanzania, are assigned to perform urban ministry in St. Louis, Mo. Since 1988, he has been pastor of Webster Groves Church in St. Louis.

— Jim Keith was appointed to a two-year campus ministry internship at California State University in Long Beach, Calif. He is a native of Winston-Salem, N.C., who grew up attending College Park Church.

— Lori Knight, a licensed speech pathologist in Dallas, will work two years in a ministry center in Miami. She will teach English as a second language to international students and the homeless, while helping to coordinate volunteer missions effort. She is a member of Park Cities Church in Dallas.

— Tom Pinner, longtime pastor of churches in Virginia and Florida, and his wife, Elnora, will serve two years as hosts for the International Baptist Theological

Seminary in the Czech Republic. His career as a pastor spans 37 years, most recently at Seminole Heights Church in Florida.

— Rick and Martha Shaw of Gloucester Point, Va., will minister to Albanian people in Macedonia. Since 1988, he has been minister of music, youth and children at Gloucester Point Church. She directs and teaches in a preschool program.

— Tamara Tillman, minister of childhood education for First Church of Dothan, Ala., will work with an unreached people group in the Middle East. She plans to direct a proposed historical information center.

— Mich and Pat Tosan of Richmond, Va., will minister to Iranian people in the United States. A native of Iran, he is scheduled to graduate from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond in December. He currently is minister to internationals at Bon Air Church.

Mississippians among 37 new CBF Coordinating Council members

FORT WORTH (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship elected 37 members to its Coordinating Council at the group's July 20-22 General Assembly in Fort Worth. The 76-member council is the organization's top decision-making body.

Elected to ex-officio council posts were moderator Pat Anderson of Lakeland, Fla.; immediate past moderator Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler of Cincinnati, Ohio; moderator-elect Lavonn Brown of Norman, Okla.; and recorder Cindy Johnson of Gaithersburg, Md.

Three at-large members joined the council: Molly Marshall of Missouri, **Troy Daniel of Mississippi**, and Jan DeWitt of Wisconsin.

Most of the new members were elected to three-year terms representing geographical areas. Elected to terms expiring in 1998 were: James Walters and Robert White of Alabama; Ray Higgins of Arkansas; Tim Wyles of Arizona; Larry Hamm of the Central region; Felix Zeigler of Florida;

Bob Potts and Betty Snyder of Georgia; Carol Davis Younger of Kansas; Greg Brooks of Kentucky; Welton Gaddy of Louisiana; Lois McCullars of Missouri; **Jane Allison of Mississippi**; Harvey Poovey and Ed Vick of North Carolina; Jean Meredith of the Northeast region; Preston Calliston of South Carolina; Larry Dipboye of Tennessee; Millie Bishop, Stephen Nash, Noah Rodriguez, Robert Wiggins, and Yoo Jong Yoon of Texas, and Catherine Johnson and Robert Whitten of Virginia.

The following persons were elected to unfinished two-year terms: Mark Sanders of Georgia,

Joe Hairston of Washington, D.C.; Cheryl Rash Jones of the Mid-Atlantic region, Hyo Young Kim of Texas and Jose H.O. Oliveras of Puerto Rico.

John Barnett of Kentucky and Pat Cates of North Carolina were chosen to serve out unfinished one-year terms expiring in 1996.

Also elected at the general assembly were trustees of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Foundation. Elected to terms expiring in 1998 were Steve Tondera of Alabama, W. Lee Burge of Georgia, Carolyn Crumpler of Ohio, Ben Murphy of Tennessee, and Ophelia Humphrey and Jerold McBride of Texas.

CBF's Sherman will make the rounds in Mississippi

Cecil Sherman, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), will travel around Mississippi Aug. 15-17. Meetings are scheduled for Jackson, Laurel, Meridian, Indianola, Starkville, and Tupelo.

In Jackson, a luncheon will be held at noon on Aug. 15 at the Edison Walthall Hotel. Reservations must be made by Aug. 10 with the Mississippi CBF office for the luncheon.

In Laurel, a 6:30 p.m. supper meeting is planned for Aug. 15 at the Western Sizzlin restaurant.

In Meridian, a breakfast is planned for Aug. 16 at 7 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Central.

A luncheon is set for noon on Aug. 16 at the Indianola Country Club.

First Church, Starkville, will host two CBF meetings: an informal reception at the church's Single's House at 6:45 p.m. on

Aug. 16; and at 7 p.m. in the chapel on Aug. 17.

A noon luncheon at Tupelo's Executive Inn is scheduled for Aug. 17. All meals are dutch treat.

Information presented at the meetings will include CBF budgeting, staffing, missions programs (volunteer and career), and clergy and laity involvement.

Holly Redford of Clinton, moderator of Mississippi's CBF, said Sherman's visit is part of a continuing effort to inform people about CBF activities in the U.S. and abroad.

"These meetings are for fellowship, information, inspiration, and challenge for Mississippi Baptists," said Redford. "People attending the meetings will be encouraged to become more involved in efforts to reach the lost."

For more information, or to make a reservation, call the CBF office at (601) 355-7824.

Lewis challenges attendees: People count, but do we care?

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — "People Count" is next year's theme for the Season of Prayer for Home Missions, but Southern Baptists must constantly ask themselves whether they really care about the lost, Home Mission Board President Larry L. Lewis told those attending Home Missions Week.

Lewis reminded missionaries, pastors, and others that former HMB President Arthur Rutledge kept a sign reading "People Count" on his desk.

"We have to ask continually, 'Do I really care about the unsaved?'" Lewis said, citing several statistics as a cause for concern to Baptists and other Christians.

Although the country's population grew 22% between 1970 and 1990, the number of churches grew 7%, he said. Southern Baptist churches grew 12% in the same time. America needed 96,000 churches overnight to have the same ratio of citizens to churches it had 20 years earlier, Lewis said. "If we don't care, who's going to care?" he asked.

Cities of 100,000 people or more account for 74% of America's population, yet they contain just 42% of the country's churches, Lewis said.

"Do we care about our cities?" he asked. "I think the world is looking to Christians and asking, 'Do you have an answer?'"

If Christians care, Lewis said, they should do three things: make witnessing a priority, make church planting an obsession, and make ministry the goal.

"Our goal is not 50,000 new church starts by this decade," he said, referring to Bold Mission Thrust, a set of target statistics for Southern Baptists by the year 2000. "Our goal is to evangelize America."

Scarborough is new DOM at N. Central

The North Central Association (Grenada and Tallahatchie counties) has voted to call its first director of missions. He is Truman Scarborough, pastor since 1986 at First Church, Coffeeville. He will lead area churches in strengthening existing churches and developing new ministries to reach people who at present are unreached by any church.



Scarborough

Scarborough will have offices in Grenada and Charleston.

The 55-year-old minister has served 28 years in Mississippi since graduation from Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. He has also served in mission work in California, Alaska, and the Bahama Islands.

He is married to the former Delores Barber of McNairy County, Tenn., and they have two daughters.

MC graduation features Agee

Bob R. Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Okla., will deliver the commencement address to the summer graduating class of Mississippi College on Aug. 11.

Agee is the 13th president of the 85-year-old school. A Texas native, he formerly served as pastor in Tennessee and Kentucky. He holds two doctoral degrees — one from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the other from Vanderbilt University.

Commencement exercises are scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the MC campus.



Agee



Youth Night rained out

Scores of young people crowded under the shelter of the bleachers at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson on the evening of July 28. Under an ominous sky, severe thunderstorms built up, inundating the Jackson area and forcing Youth Night organizers to call off the annual event. With an attendance of 19,000 in 1994, no other facility was available to handle such a crowd. This year's Mississippi Baptist Convention Board-sponsored youth outreach effort was the first in memory to be cancelled. See related article on page 3. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

NOBTS will offer courses for bivo music directors

New Orleans Seminary will offer a new, two-year cycle of eight courses in Jackson beginning August 21 to train bivocational music directors and church educational workers.

Each course will meet once each week from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The music courses include song leading, worship planning, reading music: rhythm/pitch, reading music: harmony/melody, staff communications/relationships, hymnology, music administration, and graded choir enlistment.

The courses will be offered at three Mississippi locations:

— Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

— Antioch Church, Columbus. Ed Nix, teacher.

— First Church, Purvis. James Hayes, teacher.

The cost of each course is \$75 per student. For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, program coordinator, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211-2412. Telephone: (601) 965-6285.

Lay missions conference set to coincide with MBC

The Mississippi Baptist Lay Missions Conference is set for Oct. 30 at First Church, Jackson, with James D. Williams, president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, as featured speaker.

The conference, which offers 3 p.m. meetings of mission fellowships and special interest groups for ministries, concludes with a 5 p.m. banquet.

The banquet, costing \$7.50 per person, includes music and humor from Dan McBride of Jacksonville, Texas. Allen Harris, minister of music at North Oxford Church, Oxford, will lead the music. Layman Murry Alexander of Greenville will give his testimony.

The 3 p.m. conferences include agricultural missions, led by Aubrey Cox; Campers on Mission, James Ray; church renewal, Sam Dees; construction missions, Jack Honea; educational missions, Ralph Noonkester; Mississippi River Ministry, Don Wilson; addictive behavior, Neron Smith; new ministries, Jim Didlake; Partnership Mission, Bill Hardy; Volunteers in Missions, Sidney Pitts; and ministering through support

groups, Ron Mumbower.

For tickets, write Brotherhood Department, Missions Banquet, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Mom/daughter campout slated

A Girls in Action (GA) mother/daughter overnight camp is scheduled for Oct. 13-14 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. Girls in grades one through six and their mothers are invited.

The event will begin at 4 p.m. on Oct. 13 and conclude at 3 p.m. on Oct. 14. The cost of \$23 per person includes meals, lodging, crafts, and limited insurance. Registration and payment should be sent directly to Camp Garaywa at P.O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060.

Campers must bring sheets or sleeping bag, pillowcases, towels, Bibles, paper/pencil, and personal items.

For more information, contact Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

First, Poplarville, will honor two new missionary couples

Two newly-appointed missionary couples with ties to the Poplarville area will be recognized Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. by First Church, Poplarville.

George and Terri Husk are being appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to conduct evangelistic work in Santiago, Chile. Husk currently serves as pastor of Oak Hill Church, Poplarville.

Mike and Linda Ray will

promote religious education and conduct an outreach ministry in Donetsk, Ukraine. Ray was formerly minister of music at Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville. Linda Ray considers First Church, Poplarville, her home church.

After the recognition service, the church's Woman's Missionary Union will host a reception in the family life center.

For more information, call the church at (601) 795-4531.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

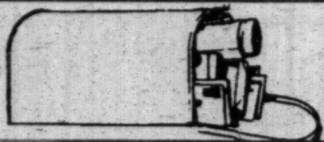
I want to get along with everyone, but this one person is always talking about others. I'm tired of it but I don't want to make her mad at me. What should I do?

When she begins talking about someone, you could politely excuse yourself and go do something else. You could interrupt her and say something good about the person, or you could say, "Excuse me, but I don't think we should be talking like this." You're probably not the only one who feels this is a problem, so observe how others handle it (and pay close attention to their body language). Taking a stand may anger this "talker," but it will make your environment much more pleasurable.

I never dreamed that my worst problem raising children would be interference by grandparents. How can we raise our children as we believe, yet show respect for our parents that they believe is lacking?

Since you have apparently tried a number of ideas that haven't worked, the best course is to stand your ground. Your main responsibility is to raise your children to honor the Lord in all things — not to make someone else happy. The interference may never stop, so you must always be on guard. As your children mature, they will begin to discern their grandparents' inappropriate behavior, and they can help you make decisions on how involved they will be with their grandparents. Respect from your children will come when they see you making the tough decisions and doing the right things. They may want what the grandparents are offering, but you must teach them that life is difficult at times and that we cannot always have everything we desire. If you don't teach them that important truth, you may find that your children will some day be treating you as your parents are treating you now.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

School isn't sacred

Editor:

It disappoints me that some of our Baptist leaders and preachers are taking up for those in our society who insist on taking God and all references to him out of our public schools. Yes, God is present in the hearts of the Christian students in the person of the Holy Spirit, but most of the students are babes in Christ as well as in age. They need the reinforcement of biblical principles taught daily in school as well as at home. Instead of reinforcement they get ridicule and failing grades when they use God's name or a subject from the Bible when asked to write essays or book reports.

When I was an elementary school student we sang a prayer of thanks for our meal in the cafeteria. If it was not wrong then (and I don't believe it was) it is not wrong now just because some people oppose it. Separation of church and state, as the term is used now by the ACLU and others, was not the intention of our forefathers and has never been acceptable to Baptists and many others until the opposition began in earnest.

If God and all references to him and his holy Word are no longer welcome and proper in the public school system, all Christians need to insist that Congress pass legislation to exempt Christians from school taxes through use of the voucher system or some other means. The public school system will be brought to its knees and be made to make changes or cease to exist; and by the way, the school system as it now stands is no scared cow. If it is no longer doing its job, and it is not on a number of counts, it has no reason to exist.

James L. Kittrell
Saucier

Liberty only for few?

Editor:

As a resident of Pontotoc County and a high school teacher for over 20 years, I am concerned about our children's future. I grew up when it was expected of students to say the Pledge of Allegiance and recite the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm (or stand reverently mute if we weren't reciting). This daily ritual taught me that some things were to be held in respect: our country, symbolized by our flag; our Father in heaven; and other human beings.

Yet Mrs. Herdahl, whose lawsuit has won an injunction against voluntary student-led prayer if it is broadcast over the intercom, seeks to destroy the very basis of our past successful attempts to educate the young and guide them in their growth toward responsible adulthood. Her lawsuit also requests that the elective Bible class in high school be eliminated and money be paid to her, not only for attorneys' fees and court costs, but for damages suffered by her family.

Damages? What about the suffering caused to the 98% of the school children and their families because of her lawsuit and the unbearable thought to outlaw Bible reading and prayer? Judge Neal Biggers, in order to allow Mrs. Herdahl's five children to stay in their classrooms, would remove the other 1,200-plus students to the gym if they wish to participate in morning devotions. What kind of nonsense is this?

Must we as a nation hide our religious beliefs so we don't offend someone with differing beliefs? Does "religious freedom" mean that over a thousand children and teenagers may not mention the name of God so that five children won't have to hear it?

I have heard too many students' prayers over the years to tolerate the accusation that these prayers are denominational or biased. They are prayers to our heavenly Father giving thanks, asking his care on the sick and sorrowing, and asking for his forgiveness and guidance for those at school.

Prayer built this mighty nation of ours, and prayer sustained it through internal and external conflicts; because God acts when his people pray. God sustained and protected Daniel in the lions' den, and in the end, the king recanted and changed his own law so that people could pray to God without persecution. May we all be as faithful as Daniel. God will do the rest.

Edna Scott
Pontotoc County

Trade the system

Editor:

The school voucher system is a system in which the government takes that portion of tax dollars set aside for our educational system and returns it to the taxpayer in the form of a voucher. This voucher is as good as money in that the parent can take it to the school of his choice (whether private or public,

parochial) to meet whatever needs he wishes to meet with his child's education.

I don't understand why Michael Clingenpeel (in *The Baptist Record's* "Guest opinion" published June 22) feels that we could be "snoekered" by Ralph Reed and not by him? His misrepresentation of the truth is not lost on me. The voucher system is a completely generic system in which each parent would decide the environment in which his child is educated — each parent, not Ralph Reed.

The need to change the present (educational) system and the desire to do so was on the table long before Ralph Reed and his Christian Coalition appeared. Big government has had its shot. I say let the parents decide.

"We the people...."
Eleanor Buford
Pickens

Seeking a pastor

Editor:

I am sending this letter to request your assistance in advertising the position of pastor, Kanto Plains Baptist Church, Fussa City, Japan, near Tokyo.

The English-speaking church seeks a pastor for primary emphasis on ministry to Japanese nationals and American military. Candidate must be willing to lead, equip, and encourage lay ministries of members. Willingness to learn basic Japanese language highly recommended.

Contact the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at (804) 353-0151, or

Eric Hinton, search committee
PSC 78 Box 1205
APO AP 96326
(32-cent stamp only);
or call 011-81-3117-57-2390.

Set to help students

Editor:

Are there college and university students from your state who are coming to school on one of the many campuses in New England — the six states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont? The Baptist Convention of New England serves all of these states, and has some sort of ministry on about 25 of the campuses in the area.

On most of the campuses we have no way to know of Southern Baptist students enrolled. We need persons in the churches of your state to help us know they are here, and how to make contact with them. Our churches are small (this is a mission field!), and our campus ministries are, also. But we are eager to provide assistance and ministry to those who come to any of the great institutions in our area.

If any of your readers have family, friends, or fellow church members who are coming to college in New England, we would like to know who they are and how to contact them. We would be

happy to meet them at airport/train stations, and help them with whatever needs they may have.

Please send information to me at: Baptist Convention of New England, 5 Oak Avenue, Northborough, MA 01532. Telephone: (508) 393-6013; FAX (508) 393-6016. We will insure that someone is in touch with them immediately.

Thank you, and remember to pray for our ministry on the strategic campuses in our area.

Nell Magee, director
Student ministries/
Church growth team
Baptist Convention
of New England
Northborough, Mass.

Set record straight

Editor:

This letter is regarding the resolution passed at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga., recently (that resolution apologizing for Southern Baptists having practiced racism and advocating human slavery during its past history). This was well and good and was long overdue, but the resolution should have read — and I hope that it did — that some Southern Baptists, but not all, were racist and had advocated human slavery.

I have been a Christian and a Southern Baptist minister for more than 60 years and have never been racist nor advocated human slavery. I always felt that if a man thought that human slavery was so good that he should try a little of it for himself.

Thousands of other Southern Baptists feel as I do, I am sure, that we should not have been lumped in the same category with those who might have felt and practiced such. I want the whole world, white and black, to know that I am not racist and that I have a horror for human slavery. Some of us have paid the price that the world may understand this.

Sollie I. Smith, pastor emeritus
Superior Avenue Church
Bogulusa, La.

Modern-day slaves

Editor:

I am a Southern Baptist! But I am in wonder about our Southern Baptist leaders who have recently come out boldly with their "apology for slavery." Does this apology include the "slaves" of today which greatly outnumber those individuals we read about in our history books? Who are these "slaves" of today?

They are the millions who are afraid to go to the local mall or grocery at night. They are the millions of our elderly who lock themselves in non-air-conditioned dwellings and swelter, and sometimes die, because they are afraid to open a door or window or sit on their porch, if they are fortunate to have one. They are the millions who lock all the doors in their car and pray as they travel our streets and highways they will not be carjacked, shot at, or have their cars

stolen when they park them. They are the millions of our kids who can no longer use our playgrounds, especially in the cooler summer nights, without fear of being shot, raped, or robbed of their shoes or jackets.

They are the millions of average families that feel in order to "be average" the mother must abandon her role of providing the "real necessities" to childhood and enter the work force only to see their self-centered leaders in Washington heap more and more monetary burdens in their paths. They are the millions who cannot sit down after all their labors of the day and enjoy an evening TV program without feeling slimy or embarrassed. They are the millions of our kids who cannot wear an adequate pair of \$20 "tennis" shoes although the "peer accepted" ones for \$85 will deprive them of proper medical and dental care or a wholesome diet. They are the millions of our young workers who have diligently prepared themselves for their jobs and already know they will not enjoy the benefits their grandparents now enjoy. These millions of 1995 "slaves" are not asking for an apology. They are asking who is going to "set them free"?

Bob Miller
Hernando

Free at last

Editor:

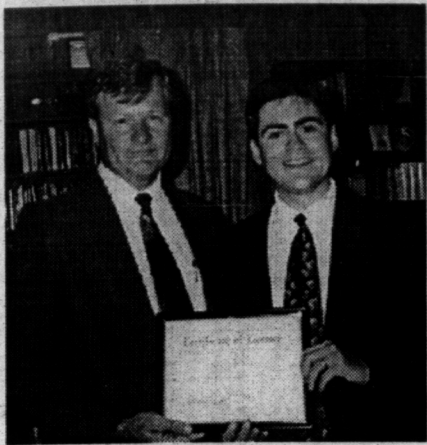
A white brother embraced a black brother on the podium in Atlanta at the Southern Baptist Convention, saying, "I'm sorry about slavery and the Civil War." SBC executives and pastors, 20,000 strong, voted to confess and ask forgiveness.

I am delighted that we are following Jesus' command to repent, confess, and seek reconciliation. SBC President Jim Henry said, "There is more to be done." I am sure this step implies that confession of our other "sins," past and present, will be forthcoming, such as the following: Offenses against American Baptists and all who died in the Civil War; racial abuses today; violating the principles of separation of church and state; robbing local churches of autonomy; establishing a centralized bureaucracy; denying members their democratic rights; insisting that all the Bible should be interpreted literally; replacing priesthood of believers with pastoral authority; denying freedom of the press to many Baptists; robbing members of their right to read and interpret the Bible as led by the Holy Spirit; taking from women their right of spiritual equality; dismissing various pastors, seminary presidents, and seminary professors without a just cause; labeling and excluding all who do not see things as we do.

John the Baptist demanded: "First go and prove by the way you live that you really have repented" (Luke 3:8).

Kelva Moore
Newton

Names in the News



Russell D. Moore (right) was licensed to the ministry on May 28 by Bay Vista Church, Biloxi. He is a second year master of divinity student at New Orleans Seminary and serves on staff at Bay Vista Church as minister of youth. **Jerry N. Watts** (left) is pastor.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Stewart Lane, director of the Santee Extension Institute, Santee Association in South Carolina, has been named "Seminary Extension Center Director of the Year" for east of the Mississippi River. **J. David Fite** and **Bill Vinson**, who admin-

ister the Seminary Extension Center at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, were named "Seminary Extension Co-directors of the Year" for west of the Mississippi River. Seminary Extension is sponsored cooperatively by the six Southern Baptist seminaries and this past year had 7,457 students enrolled in one or more courses.

Freddie and Karen Womble, missionaries to Paraguay since 1984, will be on furlough from July 24 until Feb. 8, 1996, at the following address: Missionary Residence FBC, 3503 Lemington Rd., Pensacola, FL 32504. Telephone (904) 433-9905.

Jean Allgood, a member of First Church, Gulfport, has recently been elected for a three-year term to the board of directors of the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators, Southern Baptist Convention.

Weston Burnside, minister of music at Arrowood Church, Meridian, was ordained to the gospel ministry at Russell Church, his home church, on July 9.

Scott Hanberry of Hattiesburg has been named general manager of New Orleans Seminary's Providence House. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, and is pursuing a master of divinity degree at the seminary.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Richard Carnes, president of the

Kentucky Baptist Foundation, has been tapped as the first president of the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation. He will assume the new position Sept. 1. The WMU Foundation, an independent corporation governed by its own board of trustees, was created to strengthen the ministry of Woman's Missionary Union in providing missions education and sponsoring missions activities for women, girls, and preschoolers.

Tim Glaze has been appointed as William Carey College's Baptist Student Union director. Glaze grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina,



Glaze

where his parents were missionaries. Glaze's wife **Laurie**, a native of Pontotoc, has been appointed as William Carey College's director of placement. She holds the master's of business administration degree from Mississippi State University, and previously worked as an instructor at Delta State University. The Glazes are the parents of two children.

Ruth Vanderburg, 32-year veteran of foreign missions, died July 18 after a long struggle with cancer in her hometown of Little Rock, Ark. She was 73. Vanderburg was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in December 1956.

She was assigned to the Kediri Baptist Hospital in Kediri, Indonesia, where she worked as a nurse-anesthetist.

Dale Nowell, pastor of Mt. Moriah Church, Choctaw County, received his doctor of ministry degree from Lake Charles Bible



Phyllis Doty (left) and **Betty Johnson** (right) were recently honored by First Church, Long Beach, for their respective 14 and 13 years of service to the church's weekday preschool.



Robby Britt (right) was recently licensed to the gospel by Highland Church, Crystal Springs, where **Bill Hudson** (left) is pastor. Britt can be contacted at (601) 892-5725 for interim and supply preaching.

Our company proudly retains the name of our founder, L.L. Sams, a Southern Baptist pastor.



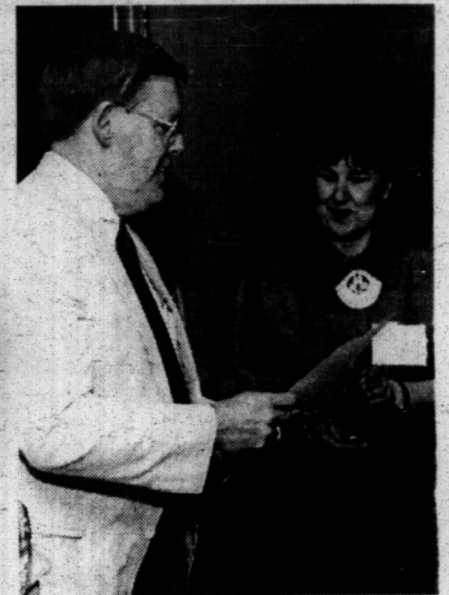
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Norman Gough of Clinton (left) was recently honored by the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM) with its life membership award, in recognition of his career excellence and contribution to the public relations profession. Gough retired in July after 34 years as Mississippi College's public relations director. The award was presented by **Trish Pardue** (right), president of PRAM's central chapter.

Mt. Zion passes 175 milestone

Mt. Zion Church, Franklin Association, will mark its 175th year as a congregation on Aug. 6.

The morning service will begin at 11 a.m. A program of singing and a history of the church will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Roy Myers of Meadville will be guest speaker for the day. **Joe Bayless** will also be part of the day's activities, as will former pastors.

Marvin Howard is pastor.

Jeff County's Bethesda marks 150th

Bethesda Church, Jefferson County (Union Association), will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Sept. 24.

Worship services will begin at 11 a.m., followed by a noon fellowship meal. Afternoon services will follow the meal.

For more information, contact the church at P.O. Box 66, Union Church, MS 39668; telephone (601) 786-3079.

They Don't Call 'Em Snake Eyes For Nothing!

Like the snake in the Garden of Eden, the compulsive gambler is a master of deception. He will do or say anything to feed his addiction to gambling. The sad part is that the biggest lie is the gambler telling himself that he doesn't have a problem.

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Just for the Record



First Church, Columbia, recently held a recognition service for Mission Friends, RAs, and GAs (pictured above). A reception was held in the fellowship hall following the service.

Newhebron Church (Lawrence Association) will celebrate its 90th anniversary on Aug. 5 and 6. On Aug. 5, the church will hold a barbecue picnic supper and fellowship from 3-6 p.m. Sonny Adkins, former staff member, will speak. On Aug. 6, worship services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Earl Clark will be the guest speaker for those services. A covered dish luncheon will follow at noon. For more information call the church at (601) 694-2243.

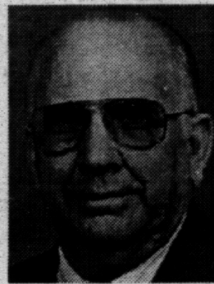
Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will host a weekend conference on Aug. 5 and 6. The theme of the conference, led by Gary and

Kathy Maze of Jackson, will be "One in Christ." The weekend will begin with a men's prayer breakfast at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5. A potluck luncheon at noon will be held for women attendees. A youth fellowship at 6 p.m. will conclude that day's activities. On Aug. 6, the Mazes will lead the worship services beginning at 10:30 a.m. He is pastor of Horizon Community Church, Jackson; she is lead singer for Kindred Heart. For more information, call Castlewoods Church at (601) 992-9977.

Choctaw Association is taking sealed bids on its Ricoh copier

until Aug. 30. If interested, please send the bid to the association at P.O. Box 716, Ackerman, MS 39735.

First Church, Hickory Flat, will hold a special 11 a.m. service on Aug. 6 to honor **R.J. Bostick** on his retirement after nine years as pastor. Over the past 45 years, Bostick has held pastorates in Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. He and his wife Helen will make their home in Bostick, Corinth, where he will be available for interim and supply preaching.



Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will host a preaching conference on Aug. 7 beginning at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided; the conference will conclude at 3 p.m. Ron Phillips of Central Church, Hixson, Tenn., will be the speaker. For more information call the church at (601) 287-2864. Kara Blackard is pastor.



GAs of Wynndale Church, Terry, were recognized for their accomplishments during the school year. Pictured, from left, front row, are Amanda Dillard, Emily Griffing, Katie Johnson, and Mindy Waldrop; second row, Cathy Jones, leader, Ashley White, Renee Anderson, and Heather White; third row, Julianne Lofton, Carlee Griffing, and Lauren Stovall; back row, Beverly Anderson, leader, Judy Griffing, leader, Katie Swindoll, Mindy Blackwell, Susan Lofton, leader, Jackie Anderson, and Laurie Stovall, leader. Tricia Swindoll is WMU director and Charles Gentry is pastor.

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Staff Changes

Ray Harden has recently been called as minister of children's education at **Crestwood Church in Booneville**.



He is a 1994 honor graduate of Blue Mountain College. He previously served at Lowery Memorial Church, Blue Mountain, as minister of children and youth and Antioch Church, Pisgah, as children's minister. Shane Price is pastor.

Gracewood Church, Olive Branch, has called **Larry R. Wimberly** to serve as minister of music and youth. He received his education at Mississippi State University, New Orleans Seminary, and Southwestern Seminary. Ronnie Mitchell is pastor.

Green's Creek Church, Petal, has called **Jackie P. Spell** as minister of education and youth, effective July 12. Spell is a graduate of William Carey College.

First Church, Carthage, has called **James Walters** as pastor effective July 16. His previous place of service was Morgantown Church, Natchez.

Davie E. Townsend was extended a call in June by Coal-town Fellowship Church, Purvis. He preached his first sermon as its new pastor exactly 16 years after his departure in 1979. When the church was formed in 1978 Townsend was called to serve as pastor.

First Church, Collinsville, called **Twyla Hurst** of Meridian as summer minister of youth. Hurst, a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, is a teacher at West Lauderdale High School.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, has called **Del Gann** as pastor effective July 2. Gann has pastored churches in Copiah and Rankin counties. He is from the Byram Community.

Dan Williams joined the staff of **First Church, Brandon**, as minister of students/youth on May 31. He received his education at the University of Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Hobart, Okla. Gene Henderson is pastor.

First Church, Vicksburg, has called **Kenny Stanteen** as minister of youth and activities. His previous place of service was First Church, Sanger, Texas. Stanteen is a graduate of Texas A&M University and Southwestern Seminary.

First Church, Nettleton, has called **Randy Zane Gillespie Jr.** of Thaxton as minister of music

effective July 16. He received his education at the University of Mississippi. His previous place of service was organist at First United Methodist. The church also called Carol Ingle of Nettleton as secretary. George C. Johnson is pastor.

Arrowood Church, Meridian, has called **Gus Merritt** as interim pastor effective June 25.

Faithview Church, Gulf Coast Association, has called **Patrick Bourg** as pastor. He is moving from Amite, La.

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Homecomings

Thursday, August 3, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival Dates

Magee's Creek, Jayess: Aug. 13; services, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.; noon dinner; Ben Purvis, Plaquemine, La., guest speaker.

First, McLaurin (Lebanon): Aug. 6; services include afternoon singing; Joe Ratcliff, guest speaker; Carlis Braswell, pastor.

Big Springs, Brookhaven: Aug. 6; services, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; noon dinner; Landreth Murphree, Ripley, guest speaker; Eric P. Naquin, pastor.

Jayess, Jayess: Aug. 6; services,

11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; covered dish, noon; Mike Boyd, Brookhaven, guest speaker; Lonnie Case, pastor.

New Prospect, Brookhaven: Aug. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner, noon; afternoon services, 1:30; Randall Walker, Shubuta, guest speaker; W.J. Nelson, Monticello, music; Wilson Winstead, interim pastor.

Damascus, Hazlehurst: Aug. 6; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night services; Dexter Ware, interim pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale: Aug. 7-11; 7 p.m. nightly; L.C. Anthony, Prentiss, evangelist; Robert Newsome, music; Glen Nelson, pastor.

Hopewell (Choctaw): Aug. 6-11; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Wayne Hill, evangelist; Charles Rook, pastor.

Fellowship, Mathiston: Aug. 6-11; 7 p.m. nightly; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.; P.J. Scott, Olive Branch, evangelist; Lee Gordon, Houston, music; Ralph Cain, pastor.

New Hope, Coffeeville: Aug. 13-16; 7:30 p.m.; Junior Reeves, Paris, evangelist; Paul Koonce, Hattiesburg, music; Frank Mixon, pastor.

Magnolia, Laurel: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with lunch, and 7 p.m.; Dean Register, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Dennis Brown, Niceville, Fla., music; Donny Bullock, pastor.

Enon, Batesville: Aug. 6-11; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 8 p.m.; Ralph Culp, Golden, evangelist; Robert Shaw, Marks, music; James Clutter, pastor.

Utica (Metro): Aug. 11-13; services, Fri. and Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Junior Hill, evangelist; Judy Walker, music; John Ed Snell, pastor.

Valley Park, Valley Park: Aug. 13-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy McFatter, Amory, evangelist; Dennis Salley, pastor.

Mt. Carmel (Smith): Aug. 13-18; Sunday, homecoming services, 10 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 2 p.m.; revival, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy Guest, Magee, evangelist; Charley Cool, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: Aug. 13-18; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Jackson, Summit, evangelist; David Fenn, Liberty, music; Cletus Moak, pastor.

Little Bahala, Wesson: Aug. 13-18; Sunday, homecoming, 11 a.m., dinner, and afternoon song service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Jeff Johnson, evangelist; Wayne Gray, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Phillips, Hixson, Tenn., evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Montrose (Jasper): July 30-Aug. 4; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Charles O. Robinson, Hickory, evangelist; Bill Hutto, pastor.

Lone Star, Collins: Aug. 6-11; Bob Baggett, Birmingham, Ala., evangelist; Mark Thompson, music; Gary Lawson, pastor.

Rock Bluff (Smith): Aug. 6-11; Sunday, homecoming, 10:45 a.m. and lunch; Joe Gill, guest speaker; revival, 7:30 nightly; Robert Miles, Sardis, evangelist;

Ray Gates, Galilee, music; Mickey Ferguson, pastor.

Concord, Yazoo City: Aug. 6-11; Sunday, morning services, dinner on grounds, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; R. David Raddin, Yazoo City, evangelist; Henry Kirk, Yazoo City, music; James Garner, pastor.

Goodwater, Forest: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, lunch at noon, 1:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. nightly; Charles Bonner, Raleigh, evangelist; Betty Gaskin, music; John Adcock, pastor.

Crowder (North Delta): Aug. 6-11; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Charles Stubblefield, Ecu, evangelist; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

Calvary, Forest: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; John Ladd, Forest, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

Westside, Hazlehurst: Aug. 6-11; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, afternoon song service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Vann Windom, Roxie, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, Baton Rouge, La., music; Larry Hart, pastor.

East Forest (Scott): Aug. 11-13; 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; J. Garland McKee, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Monroe Harrell, music; Frank Morgan, pastor.

Spring Hill, Waterford: Aug. 13-16; 7 p.m.; Bobby Moore, Olive Branch, evangelist; Gary Kennedy, music; Paul Middleton, pastor.

Sarepta (Franklin): Aug. 6-11; John W. Henry, director of missions, George and Greene associations, evangelist; Tommy Wilson, music; Hermon Clark, pastor.

Bond, Philadelphia: Aug. 6-11; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Ben McDaniel, Philadelphia, evangelist; Jimmy Cumberland, music; D.W. Green, pastor.

Union (Rankin): Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Rick Patrick, music; Brent Bozeman, pastor.

Temple, Jackson: Aug. 6-9; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; 7 nightly; Lyn Nations, Mize, evangelist; Devin Meilstrip, music; Ray Hodges, pastor.

HEALTHCARE

FOR THE RECORD

Putting Christian Concern in Action.

MBMC Home Health Aide receives national recognition.

Now, the nation knows what many Mississippi patients have known all along: Maggie Lee Martin is the best home health care aide around.

Martin, a 40-year veteran of health care, was recently named Home Care Aide of the Year from more than 20,000 aides certified through the Foundation for Hospice and Home Care. She works in Yazoo City for Central Mississippi Health Care at Home, a department of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

In nominating Martin for the prestigious award, Central's former regional director, Elaine Roark, said that Martin is the type of aide who delivers a special brand of care to her patients.

According to registered nurse Hilda May, one frail and malnourished patient literally owes his life to Maggie. "For six months, Maggie went to see this elderly man sometimes as often as three times a day, even though she was usually paid for only three visits per week," says May. "She would cook meals at her home and take them to him. We saw him transformed from an emaciated, weak and lonely individual into a healthy, happy human being. Maggie not only gave him food, but also love, compassion and friendship," May said.

Maggie Martin also is known for

cooking Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and delivering them with gifts to many of her patients. Even on a modest salary Martin finds a way to give out hundreds of bars of soap, wash cloths, socks, razors, sheets and other items. "Her giving spirit has continually amazed me and the quality of her work is outstanding," says former supervisor Helen Paul. "In my opinion, no one can top Maggie Martin in quality of care, in integrity, in giving or in quantity of work."

Obviously, the Foundation for Hospice and Home Care agreed, bestowing its coveted award on Martin.

All of us at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center salute the extra effort Maggie Martin puts forth on behalf of her patients. This type of Christian concern for others is what we strive for in our home health services and in all our patient care.

Through Central Mississippi Health Care at Home, Baptist now offers services in six central Mississippi counties: Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Copiah, Yazoo and Leake.

If you'd like more information or a complete listing of the home health services offered, please call us at 948-MBMC (6262) or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262).



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Ministry meeting cancelled

"Ministry in a Gambling Community," the conference scheduled for Aug. 21-23 in Vicksburg, has been cancelled due to low registration and a lack of interest.

However, in 1996, the Missions Extension & Associational Administration Department and the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will jointly conduct afternoon and evening seminars on gambling ministry.

The seminars will be held June 24 at Emmanuel Church, Grenada; June 25 at First Church, Clinton; June 27 at 15th Avenue Church, Meridian; and June 28 at 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg.

Uniform Responding to God's call



By Andy Brasher
Isaiah 1, 6

Sometime around 1980, a science fiction movie entitled "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" hit the theaters. The show depicted an actual physical confrontation and encounter of a human with an alien life form. To say the least, the show was a box office success. Never before had a movie seemed so real and captured the imagination of the public. The special effects were marvelous and the musical score unforgettable. Yet, it was only make-believe.

As incredulous as this may seem, there is recorded in the Bible a close encounter with God by a man named Isaiah that puts this movie to shame. As a matter of fact, every time God calls a person unto salvation or service that individual encounters the power of the living God.

A life-changing encounter with God (6:1-13). The death of Uzziah in 736 B.C., brought an end to an era of prosperity for Judah. However, during this time of prosperity, the people had become immoral and corrupt (1:4). It was Isaiah's task to announce that God's devastating judgment would soon come (6:10-13).

Evidently, Isaiah was in the temple when through a vision, he encountered God. Isaiah reported that he saw God on his throne high and lifted up, and his robe filled the temple. This must have been a staggering sight. Next, Isaiah saw two angelic beings called seraphim.

These angels pronounced the presence of God. Notice that even the angels in reverence to deity covered their eyes and feet. The angels cried out "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory." Some theologians, including Calvin, argue that this is not a reference to the Trinity; I beg to differ. Nevertheless, the angels pronounced the presence of the one holy and omnipotent God of the universe. One can only imagine the thoughts and fear of Isaiah as he stood before the Lord.

A cleansing call and surrender to serve (6:6-8). Isaiah immediately recognized his personal unholiness and uncleanness, quickly identifying himself with the sins of the people. Isaiah used the term "unclean lips" to describe himself. This reference was not to imply that his deeds were holier than his words, but he felt unworthy of becoming God's spokesperson. Who wouldn't feel inadequate?

God then commissioned Isaiah to be a prophet by the work of an angel, symbolically touching a coal from the blood-stained altar to his lips. Theologically, it was the blood on the coal, not the heat, that seared the sin from him and cleansed him for divine service. The blood-stained coal from a sacrifice served as a symbol of the future atoning power of Christ. Isaiah accepted God's call with enthusiasm; "Here am I, send me." Why don't we embrace God's call?

A heart-breaking assignment (6:10-13). As mentioned earlier, Isaiah was called to preach judgment "until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate."

Without a doubt, this was a difficult task to perform, but God called and Isaiah agreed to serve.

God takes his people to court (1:2-31). God accused his people of meaningless worship (vv. 14-15), of Jerusalem being a spiritual harlot (vv. 21-23), and pronounced a harsh judgment on idolatry (vv. 24-31). In verses 16-17, God demanded that his people repent and wash themselves clean of their sins. Yet, in the middle of God's unrelenting prosecution and formidable justice, he offered them the possibility of forgiveness and absolution (v. 18-19).

That offer still stands for all who will plead guilty and sincerely ask the Justice of the court to pardon them.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book God's judgment



By Larry McDonald
Ezekiel 26, 28

Tyre was the island capital of Phoenicia, present day Lebanon. The name "Tyre" means "rock" and referred to the main fortress that was located on a rock one-half mile offshore. Tyre ranked as a great commercial center whose wealth knew no bounds. Because she had the ability to withstand some of the greatest armies and commanders in history, the inhabitants had a pride and arrogance that made them insensitive to human suffering. The lack of concern was evidenced by their response to the fall of Jerusalem (26:2). "Aha!" was a cry of malicious joy.

The judgment against Tyre (26:2-3) was due, in part, to this attitude they had toward the news of the destruction of Jerusalem. God promised to bring six judgments upon Tyre (26:3-6). First, the military of many nations would come against the city as unrelenting waves (26:3). Second, there would be divine opposition to Tyre (26:3). Third, the walls of Tyre would be destroyed (26:4). Fourth, God promised that the island fortress would become a pile of rubble (26:4). Fifth, Tyre would be the object of plunder for all the nations (26:5). Sixth, the city on the mainland would be destroyed (26:6).

Tyre became synonymous with pride and self-sufficiency. This arrogance of the nation was reflective of the personal pride of the ruler. This is what brought the downfall of Tyre's king (28:24-26). Although not named in this passage, the king of Tyre during this period was Ethball II. He was called "ruler," a word used to refer to a charismatic leader or a dynastic king. He was a skilled trader, merchant, and businessman. His success brought even more pride. The pride was so great in the heart of Ethball II, he elevated himself to the status of god (28:2).

The message of God through Ezekiel cut to the heart of the matter in declaring the King of Tyre as a man, not god (28:2). Two rhetorical questions followed, both of which presupposed a negative answer. The king was not wiser than Daniel, nor did he possess all knowledge (28:3). Because of the ruler's arrogance, judgment would come upon the kingdom as well as its king.

This judgment would come from "foreigners," referring to Nebuchadnezzar and his army (26:7). God promised that these soldiers, noted for ruthlessness, would destroy the city and bring its ruler down to the "pit" (28:8). Ezekiel 28:11-19 has been a much debated passage throughout the history of biblical interpretation. Many people parallel this passage with Isaiah 14:12-17. These passages sometimes are compared and related to Satan as the figure behind the King of Tyre and Babylon.

The message of hope for Israel's relief and restoration was still present in the midst of a dark time (28:24-26). Ezekiel prophesied about a time of security when houses would be built and vineyards planted. Israel would once again be regathered and restored. The nation would dwell in safety and again enjoy divine protection. This seed of hope would germinate, grow, and blossom.

In thinking about God's judgment upon nations, it is hard not to think about the serious condition of moral decay found in the United States. I think about the words Alexis de Tocqueville made in 1830 as he toured America.

When his tour had been completed, he made this observation: "I have toured America, and I have seen most of what you offer. I've seen the richness of the fields and the wealth of your mines. I've seen your industrial might, the beauties of the rivers, the streams, the lakes, and the grandeur of the mountains. I've noticed the abundance of the forests and the marvelous climate with which you are blessed."

"In none of these things did I see the cause for the greatness of America. It wasn't until I went into your churches that I saw the reason for America's greatness. America is great because America is good; and as long as America is good, America will be great. If it ever ceases to be good, it will cease to be great."

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work Killing the old man



By Bob Rogers
Colossians 3

The contemporary Christian singing group Petra has a song about the "old man," that says:

"I know he'd kill me if he could. So, I'll nail him to the wood.

"Killing my old man. You may not understand. He's a terrible man. I've got to make a stand and kill the old man."

In this week's lesson Paul shows how different the "new man" in Christ should be from the "old man." This passage would be appropriate to read at a baptism, for it first talks about the qualities of the old life that should die in us (vv. 5-11), then how we should clothe ourselves with Christian qualities (vv. 12-14), and finally what we should receive into our lives from Christ (vv. 15-16).

Kill the old man (vv. 5-10). The qualities of the old sinful nature that must die in the Christian fall into three categories: lust, anger, and evil speech.

Verse 5 lists five kinds of lust: "sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed." The first four have sexual connotations. Sexual sin is one of the most destructive sins of all, because it is against the body, the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:18-20).

Christians who are free from sexual lusts should notice that greed is also included in this list of lusts, and greed is further described as "idolatry," because it puts material things before God.

Anger must also die in the life of a Christian. Verse 8a lists three words for anger. The first one is a slowly burning anger, the second is a blazing anger, and the third is anger arising from hatred. Psalm 4:4 reminds us that it is not the emotion of anger which is sinful, but the uncontrolled actions that we do as a result of this anger.

Dress like a Christian (vv. 11-14). In Christ there should be no distinction between people of different races or cultures. Verse 11 shows a progression of prejudice: Jews disdained Gentiles (non-Jews) because of their Greek culture and their uncircumcision; Greeks scoffed at people who spoke a different language and called them barbarians; and Romans hated the savage Scythians, a people in what is today south Russia. The slave was considered lowest of all.

No matter what race, culture, or class, all Christians should put on the same qualities. In the early church, converts were given new white robes after their baptism. This new robe symbolized the qualities of the new lifestyle which are given in verses 12-14.

First, we put on the glasses of compassion to see needs around us. These glasses should be bi-focal, to see needs near and far. Second, we put on the glove of kindness to touch those who are hurting. Third, we put on the hat of humility to cover our pride and boasting.

Fourth, we put on a pair of shoes: gentleness and patience. With these shoes we should not step in front of others, but we should willingly stand in line and wait our turn. Fifth, we put on the jacket of forgiveness, to bear on our backs the burdens others endure.

All of these clothes should be tied together with the belt of love, which wraps around and brings together all the Christian clothes that we wear.

Let go and let Christ (vv. 15-16). After all that we kill off and put on, verses 15-16 list two qualities that we must simply receive from Christ. Notice how parallel the two verses are: "let the peace of Christ rule" and "let the word of Christ dwell."

Christ's peace must rule. "Rule" literally means to referee or be the umpire. Are you in conflict within the church? Christ the referee orders you to sit down and be quiet, or be thrown out of the game!

Christ's word must dwell. His word can flow through us like blood in our veins by his teaching and by his music. That is why regular worship is so vital to the healthy Christian life.

Questions for discussion:

Which qualities of the "old man" are the most difficult to kill? Which Christian clothes are the most difficult to put on? Do you think we learn more of Christ's word from teaching and preaching or from the hymns and songs we sing?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**MARCH 1, 1995-
MARCH 31, 1995**

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(to be continued)



Jessica Sykes rappels at DeSoto State Park during a five-day wilderness camping trip.



Ten girls also enjoyed spelunking at Pettyjohn Cave in Lafayette, Georgia. The girls were accompanied by Counselor Jerry Jackson, Social Worker Elke Cox, and a Mississippi College volunteer, Misty Roberts. Misty is a senior Psychology major at MC.

Such wilderness adventures are designed to build self-esteem and team work among BCV residents; and aid in strengthening relationships.

There is an immediate need for mature, Christian couples and singles to serve as Child Care Workers.

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FELLOWSHIP DEFUNDS PEACE GROUP BECAUSE OF HOMOSEXUAL STANCE: FORT WORTH (ABP) — The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship cut its funding of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America July 20 because of the peace group's stated openness to homosexuals. "That is not why we funded them in the beginning," said CBF Coordinator Cecil Sherman, noting the peace group recently broadened its agenda to welcome gays and lesbians and encourage churches to do likewise. An allocation of \$7,000 for the Peace Fellowship was deleted from the 1995-96 budget of the CBF Coordinating Council by a vote hours before the Fellowship opened its annual general assembly in Fort Worth. The peace group said in February that inclusion of gays in society and church is a matter of justice. The Peace Fellowship's recent pronouncement does not signal a new agenda but a logical application of its commitment to peace with justice, Ken Sehested, the group's executive director, said July 22. Jim Page, an AIDS counselor and member of the ethics panel from Daytona Beach, Fla., said the group struggled over the decision before agreeing on the compromise position to delete the Peace Fellowship as a line item but allow project funding.

SBC HUNGER GIFTS DROP FOR 1994: NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist giving to world hunger was down by almost \$1 million last year, from \$7.93 million in 1993 to \$6.96 million in 1994 — more than a 12% decrease. Reasons for the decline are difficult to assess, according to the Christian Life Commission's hunger consultant, C. Ben Mitchell. "It's very hard to discover good reasons for the drop in giving," said Mitchell. "Giving to other SBC causes, including the Cooperative Program, were strong for the year. Yet giving for hunger was down across the board." Figures from the Home and Foreign Mission boards show giving for hunger was down in 25 of 40 state conventions.

RTVC RADIO PROGRAMS REACH ESTIMATED 388 MILLION: FORT WORTH (BP) — Five weekly radio programs produced by the SBC Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) reach an estimated worldwide audience of 388 million people each week. The Commission's June radio marketing report shows "Country Crossroads" as the most popular RTVC-produced program, airing on 887 stations a total of 946 times per week. It airs in 213 different markets worldwide and in 36 of the top 50 markets in the United States. The program is a combination of the latest in country music, interviews with country music personalities, and inspirational thoughts from hosts Bill Mack and Jerry Clower, country humorist from Amite County. The oldest of the RTVC-produced programs, the historic "The Baptist Hour," is carried by 372 stations and airs 390 times per week. It airs in 111 markets worldwide and in 20 of the top 50 U.S. markets. The program features sermons by Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson.

WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCES STILL KEY: MEMPHIS (BP) — For 51 years, World Missions Conferences have succeeded in putting faces on the worldwide ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. But the best is yet to come for the WMC concept, predicts Myra Book, director of deputation services for the Home Mission Board. "It continues to be the best tool Southern Baptists have in telling our missions story," Book said. "WMCs show how Southern Baptists are working together in taking the good news of Jesus Christ to the world." World Missions Conferences were held in 161 associations in 1994, with 3,344 churches and more than 824,000 people participating in the program, which originated as Schools of Missions in 1944. Last year's WMCs also produced 228 professions of faith and 322 commitments to missions involvement at home and abroad.

ZAMBIAN BAPTIST HEAD REJECTS CHURCHES' MEETING: LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — With the public backing of Zambia's vice president, representatives of more than half of the churches in the Baptist Convention of Zambia met and asked the convention's executive secretary to withdraw her letter blocking work permits for the missionaries. But the executive secretary, M.B. Kamuwanga, has refused, calling the June 23 meeting illegal and "another skillfully masterminded attempt at destroying the convention structure." The three pastors who carried the request from the meeting to the executive secretary are now seeking an appointment with Brigadier General G. Miyanda, Zambia's vice president, whose dramatic visit to the meeting resulted in the action the executive secretary is rejecting. Meanwhile, missionaries apparently are still being granted one-month extensions on their work permits while immigration officials study the case.

NEPAL BAPTISTS SET GOAL OF 300 CHURCHES: KATHMANDU, Nepal (ABP) — Baptists in Nepal have voted to endorse a goal of 300 churches by the year 2000, according to the Baptist World Alliance. The Nepal Baptist Church Council agreed to win converts from other faiths and not to take members from existing Christian churches in a May 14-15 meeting in Kathmandu, the July/August issue of BWA News reported. The Nepal Baptist Convention currently numbers 2,500 members in 20 churches and 35 missions, including a new Baptist church in Kathmandu with 29 members, most of whom are new converts, the magazine reported. About 90% of the country's 22 million citizens are Hindu.

Jackson pastor's media ministry grows out of answered prayers

FORT WORTH (BP) — The current preacher for "The Baptist Hour" said his media ministry began with answered prayer.

"When I was attending Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and pastoring a church, I used to listen to 'The Baptist Hour' on radio," said Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church of Jackson. "I prayed then that I would someday be given opportunity to be 'The Baptist Hour' preacher."

That prayer was answered years later when he was called on to substitute on the program for Herschel Hobbs, who was then "The Baptist Hour" preacher and pastor of First Church, Oklahoma City. The prayer was further answered when Pollard became the preacher for the worldwide "The Baptist Hour" radio program in 1976, a position he held until 1986. And, his prayer was answered again in 1991 when he became preacher for both the radio and television versions of "The Baptist Hour."

Born in Olney, Texas, Pollard graduated from Texas A&M

University with a business administration degree, earned a bachelor of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, and a doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary. He received an L.H.D. degree from California Baptist College and a doctor of divinity degree from Mississippi College.

The television version of "The Baptist Hour" is carried weekly on the SBC Radio and Television Commission-operated networks ACTS and FamilyNet, reaching into millions of homes in the United States. The translated Russian version of Pollard's powerful weekly TV message reaches a potential audience estimated at almost 100 million in the former Soviet Union.

The radio version of the program is carried by 362 stations in the U.S. and has a potential worldwide audience of 197 million people.

Pollard said the anger he once felt at what some televangelists were doing on television also provided impetus and purpose for his media ministry.

"I was ill one Sunday back in the '70s and couldn't preach," he said, "so I stayed home and turned on my television set to hear the gospel. Instead of hearing preaching, I heard a lot of pleas for money for this thing or that. I thought the way these preachers were asking for money destroyed their credibility, so I prayed for a TV ministry that would be different."

That prayer was answered with a weekly TV program called "At Home With The Bible," hosted by Pollard and jointly produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board and the RTVC.

"Radio is one of the very best ways to communicate the message of Christ," he said, "because you're not distracted by what you see. Radio is a vital part of the media mix in reaching the masses for Christ."

The pastor expressed appreciation for the people of his church who are "so supportive of our media ministry." He said he spends 20 to 30 hours weekly praying and getting ready to preach.

"There's a lot of ministry I can't do alone," he said. "We have a great staff at First Baptist Church and they help carry the load."

"The people here believe in our media ministry and they believe in quality. That's why the congregation was willing to invest \$450,000 for new equipment, and why they're so supportive of the media ministry to Russia. We've bonded with Central Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Russia. The people there translate the hundreds of letters we receive from the Russian people who see our broadcast every week."

"We know our media ministry is worthwhile because many of the people who write are discovering Christ for the first time."

Pollard praised Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC, for all the work he had done in getting the program aired in Russia.



Louisville men's ministry

Men of First Church, Louisville, recently returned from a mission trip to Ringgold, Ga., where they participated in building a church. This is the third consecutive summer these men and others have gone to build churches. A trip to Colorado is already planned for 1996. They are (from left): front row, Keith Dowdy, Ester Taylor, Bob Johns, Mark Jackson, Leo Bourlet of Raymond, James Russell, Shane Pourciau of Crosby, and Ron Phillips; back row, Gary Rogers, Ted Sykes, Lester Cummins, Tim Smith, Romeo Bridges, L.H. Pourciau of Baton Rouge, La., Chuck Pourciau, pastor; Wayne Pourciau of Crosby, John Clendinning, minister of education, and Don Cain.

Bibliocipher

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ANBYBLSYB UBHXH WRHS, FNWF NB KOCNF
HWVDFOLQ FNB GBSGRB AOFN NOH SAV ZRSST,
HXLLBYBT AOFNSXF FNB CWFB.

NBZYBAH FNOYFBBV: FABRPB

This week's clue: Y equals R.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James Five: Nine.

Baptist Record

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